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The University of Dayton

News Release

UD ADOPTS BEER KEG POLICY FOR ALL UNIVERSITY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

DAYTON, Ohio, Aug. 23, 1989--University of Dayton officials have amended the University's alcohol policy to disallow the unauthorized use of beer kegs in residence halls and University-owned houses and apartments.

The move is the University's response to Ohio's change in the legal drinking age, which has been raised from 19 to 21. Approximately 75 percent of UD's 6,500 undergraduate students fall below the legal age limit.

"The University has always tempered its concern over the problem of alcohol abuse with the respect for the privileges of age afforded to the majority of our students by state statute," said William C. Schuerman, vice president for student development and dean of students. "However, the University now has the responsibility to support and uphold the change in the law governing the legal age. The University also has a responsibility to manage its facilities and programs in such a way as to prudently avoid the risk of liability associated with illegal alcohol use on the campus.

"While the University will continue to respect students' right to privacy in their living quarters, it cannot ignore the clear and open disregard of the public statute which the use of kegs promotes and encourages," Schuerman said.

Approval for the use of kegs will be granted only when the legal drinking age can be validated, according to Schuerman. "It is our experience that kegs are not normally used for intimate and controlled gatherings where the legal drinking age of guests can be verified by the sponsors or hosts, but rather are usually associated with the indiscriminate dispensing of beer with little regard for the identity, let alone the age, of those to whom it is available," he noted.

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Violation of the regulation will result in a minimum \$75 fine per host of an event and/or per resident of the house, apartment or residence hall. A repeat offender faces more severe disciplinary action, including dismissal from University residence facilities.

Of the 4,300 students who live in University housing, approximately 1,500 live in apartments or houses. About 3,000 students live in the neighborhood surrounding campus.

University officials told students about the new policy through a letter followed by an Aug. 23 "town meeting" at the McGinnis Center. Six months ago the University adopted an alcohol/substance abuse education program that is free to students who refer themselves or follow a counselor's recommendation to enroll. Students involved in serious disciplinary violations related to alcohol or drug abuse are required to participate in the eight-hour program.

The University of Dayton is a private, co-educational school founded and sponsored by the Society of Mary (Marianists), a Roman Catholic teaching order. UD is the largest independent university in Ohio and the ninth largest Catholic university in the nation. Approximately 11,000 graduate and undergraduate students currently attend UD.